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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 4 6.

----------oOo----------

OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1 9 4 6.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentleman,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine:-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2,250.
Registrar General's estimate of population...	3,510.
Number of inhabited houses.	1,029.
Rateable Value	£22,924.
Sum represented by a penny rate..	£94.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males	Females	Totals.
Births -	Legitimate	24	30	54
	Illegitimate	1	3	4
		25	33	58

	Rate for District	Rate for England & Wales
Birth Rate	16.5	19.1
Death Rate	12.0	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	17.2	43.0

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-
Influenza	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	1
Cancer of the buccal cavity and oesophagus	1	-
Cancer of the uterus	-	1
Cancer of the stomach and duodenum ...	1	-
Cancer of all other sites	2	3
	5	6

(Continued)

Causes of Death (Continued).

	Males.	Females.
Brought forward:-	5	6
Intracranial vascular lesions	1	4
Heart Disease	5	3
Other diseases of the circulatory system	-	3
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia	2	-
Other respiratory diseases	1	-
Nephritis	1	1
Congenital malformation - birth injury - infant diseases	1	-
Road traffic accident	-	1
All other causes	-	4
	19	23

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch B., D.P.H. Camb

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Urban District.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations in your area were carried out during the year at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

Blood	30.
Faeces	109
Vaginal Swab	1
C.S.F.	3
Ear Swabs	4
Throat Swabs	96
Nose Swabs	13
Sputum	4
Urine	5
Skin Swab	1
Abscess Swabs	3
Pleural Fluid	7
Finger Swab	1
Wound Swab	2
Dates	3
Flour	1
Milk	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from wells	-
(b) from piped supply	24

Results of samples taken:-

(a) from wells -	unsatisfactory.	-
	satisfactory...	-
(b) from piped supply -	unsatisfactory.	4
	satisfactory..	20

The public supply has been restricted for most of the year, a full 24 hour supply was however restored on the 4th December.

The Council acquired the Oakham Water Company's Undertaking and have operated it from 29th September.

The Sanitary Inspector instituted a waste elimination campaign as soon as the undertaking came under his control. This built up the reserves and enabled the Council to extend the hours of supply before the increased yield from the Springs made a 24 hour supply possible. With further waste detection and prevention still proceeding, the prospects of a full supply throughout 1947 are good. At the end of 1946 there was a reserve of five days supply.

It has also been possible to wash out the ends of mains.

There were no cases of main water being substituted for well water.

About 97% of the houses and of the population are supplied by the Council. In many cases the water is not laid in to the houses and in some cases 1 tap is shared by 2 or more houses.

There are no public stand-pipes.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No changes occurred during the year, except for the commencement of a new sewer for a housing estate.

Total number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1945 5

2. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1946:-

(1) Privies	-
(2) Pail Closets.	35
(3) Water Closets	approx. 1,100

(Continued)

2. Closet Accommodation (Continued).

Number of privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year... ... -

Number of Pail Closets abolished during the year ... -

Water or sewer are not available to 20 of the above 35 Pail Closets. Others will disappear as a result of Demolition Orders or conversion, etc., in the near future Pail Closet conversions to water carriage for the last five years have been, nil, nil, 2, 3 and nil.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The difficulty of obtaining new dust-bins has not been so pronounced and many new ones have been provided,

One man was engaged part time on the Refuse Tip with beneficial results. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no fly nuisance occurs. The Council use a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in less than 5 days each week.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received...	34.
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints.	31.

Nature of inspections:-

	Inspections & re-inspections.
Dwelling houses (all purposes)..	165
Tents, Vans, etc....	-
* Slaughter houses....	-
Food premises.	50
Dairies and cowsheds	10
Offensive trades	-
Animal keeping	5
Workshops, etc.	26
Shops...	28
Other premises	46
Lodging Houses	8
Water Wastage.	200
	538

* Officially no slaughtering is done in Oakham. Occasional pigs are killed, however.

N O T I C E S.

Preliminary	Housing	Other
Outstanding on 1st January, 1946	-	--
Issued during the year	-	12
Complied with during year	-	12
Outstanding 31st December, 1946	-	--
Statutory action necessary	-	--

N O T I C E S.

Statutory	Housing	Other
Outstanding 1st January, 1946	6	-
Issued during the year	-	-
Complied with during year	3	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1946	3	-

The above Housing Notices are Demolition Orders which are operative. Only two of the three houses are occupied.

Most of the work is done by letter or telephone, and few formal notices either preliminary or statutory are used.

5. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council houses infested...	-
Number of other dwelling houses found to be infested	1
Number of houses disinfested..	1

The method of disinfestation was by spraying and fumigating and destruction of infested bedding, etc.

6. SCHOOLS.

The Secondary School is a modern well-lighted building; so also are the Junior House and "Wharflands". The others are mainly old-fashioned, but the sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the water supply is normally good. "Deanscroft" will be opened up in the near future as an Oakham School House, enlargement and alteration is now proceeding.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Owned by School Trustees and loaned to the Council	1
Number of inspections	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

	Cowkeepers	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).
Number on the Register ...	6	6
Number of inspections of premies	6	4
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year-		-
Number of contraventions found during the year ...	-	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year...	-	-

(Of the 6 Dairymen 2 nave no premises in Oakham)

2. MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections... 8

3. PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

Number of inspections... 42

3 (Continued).

14 lbs tinned fruit 14 lbs. tinned fish, 15 lbs. tinned milk, 12 lbs. tea, 28 lbs. canned meat, 16 lbs. cheese, 3 lbs. butter, 53 lbs. mutton, 108 lbs. beef and 11 lbs. prunes, were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

H O U S I N G.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 90

(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose 93

(b) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ... -

(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... -

(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 10

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ... Nil.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... 3

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

By Owners ... ... -

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936 ... ... -

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of 1946 6

(b) Number of families dwelling therein. 8

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein.. 44

Continued.....

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part iv - Overcrowding. (Continued).

It is a strange coincidence that the above figures are the same as those given for 1945. Actually there may be more cases. There are many cases where houses are uncomfortably full, but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1935

At least three cases of overcrowding have been abated in 1946 The position is, of course, always changing due to demobilisation, etc There are at present living in Oakham 144 applicants for Council Houses. Many of these persons are sharing houses with parents. In addition about 55 persons now outside the Urban District also require houses here.

One large house was converted into 5 flats and the Council had 10 temporary houses and 5 permanent completed. 3 More houses were completed in January, 1947, and tenders were received for 10 in 5 pairs.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	19	-	-
Scarlet Fever	8	7	-
* Diphtheria	4	4	-
Pneumonia	9	-	2
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-

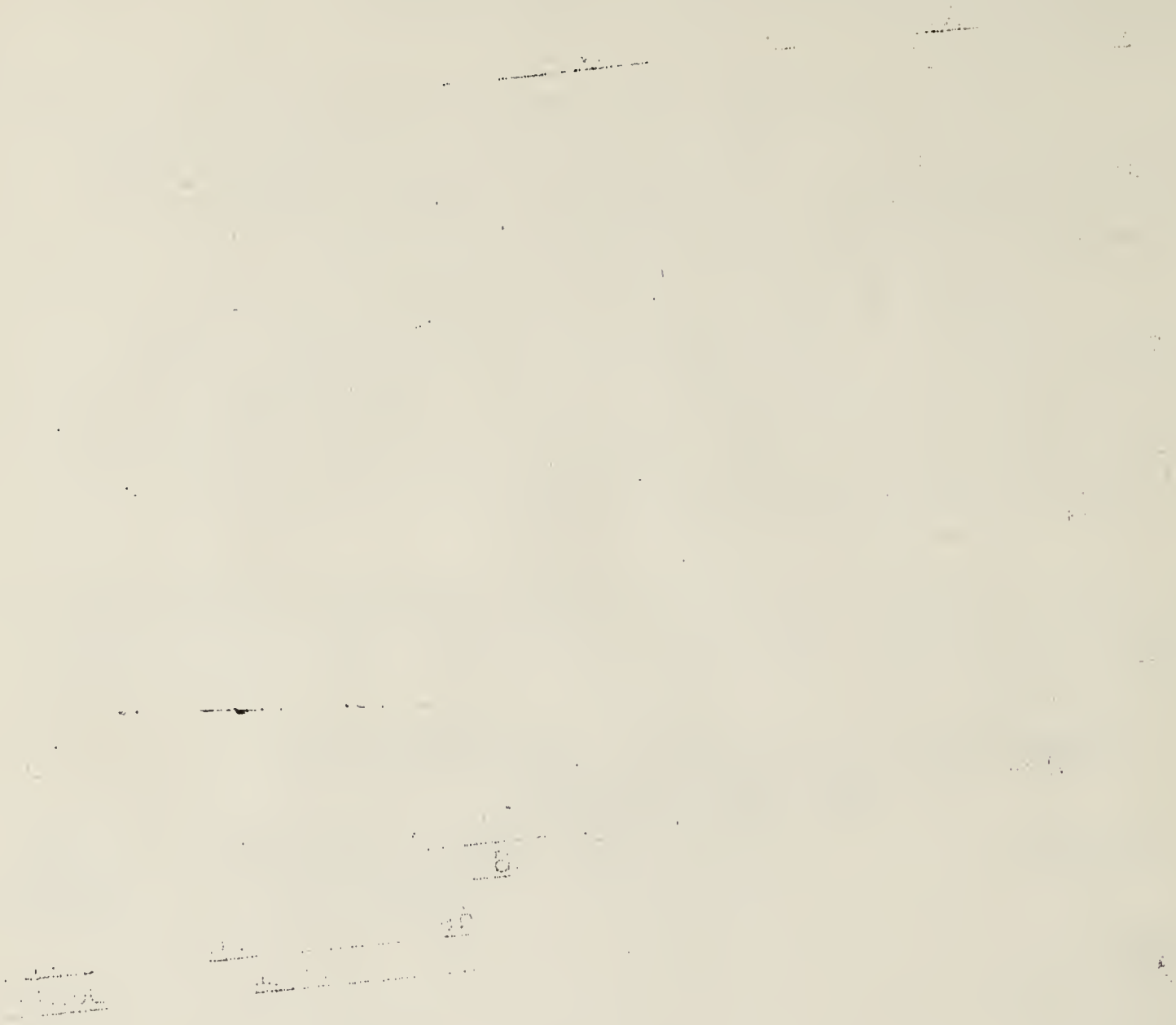
* One of the above mentioned cases of diphtheria aged 15½ years, was found to be negative on admission to hospital. The same applied to 1 case of Scarlet Fever, aged 12 years.

A G E G R O U P S.

Disease	Under One	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 64	65 & over
* Dysentery	-	-	1	2	-	6	1	1	3	2	2	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-		-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	2
Erysipelas	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-		-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Non Civilian. Pneumonia	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

* In the early part of the year there was a number of cases of Sonne dysentery in the town; the disease was however of a very mild type. I advised the boiling of water and milk as a temporary measure, and gave some advice on hygiene to the public through the local press. The epidemic was brought under control in a few weeks.

Apart from this, the incidence of infectious disease was light during the year.



T U B E R C U L O S I S.

New Cases and Mortality during 1 9 4 6.

AGE GROUP	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

S C A B I E S.

Arrangements have been made with the Joint Committee of the Melton & Belvoir Rural District Council and the Melton Mowbray Urban District Council for the treatment of cases of Scabies in the area at the Scabies Centre, Melton Mowbray. 3 Cases were treated during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
MELTON MOWBRAY.